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Construction of Mattiol-Medai Road, North Malabar

* 269 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the stage at which the construction of Mattool-Medai Road in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, stands now?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMY PADAYATCHI : The work of forming a portion of the road is included in the Second Five-Year Plan. The work will be taken up for execution by the Malabar District Board in due course.

Legislation to restrict one union for one industry

* 270 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to bring in legislation to restrict one union for one industry in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) It has been decided to finalise the proposals after consulting the State Labour Advisory Board at its next meeting to be held on the 10th and 11th October 1956.

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Sir, the Hon. Minister says that it will be decided on the 10th October. If all the workers belonging to all unions feel that secret ballot should be taken whenever votes are taken, will the Government agree to it?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I did not say that I would decide on the 10th October or that the Government would decide on the 10th October. What I said was that this matter would be put before the Labour Advisory Board at its meeting on the 10th and 11th October. After that, the Government will take a decision. I cannot understand the need for secret ballot on a question like this. Hon. Members should not hesitate to express their independent views on this very important question.

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN : Sir, as the right of association of individuals is guaranteed under the Constitution, and so long as the association is only for non-violent and peaceful purposes and not for disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the State, can the Government restrict the number of unions in an industry? Have the Government consulted legal experts?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Regarding the proposal of the Government, there will be no legal difficulty. There is no idea of banning association. The right of association of individuals would not be affected in the least. But the question is, which union should be recognized by the Government for purposes of negotiations, etc.

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SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: May I know, Sir, whether this Government will recognize only that union which has got the majority of members? In the case of P. Orr & Sons where there are 220 workers, the Government and the management have recognized only that union which has got 20 members and not recognized the other union which has got 200 members.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The hon. Member need not anticipate and need not go to specific questions. He may wait till the Bill is published. He may then look into the provisions of the Bill, and he will have ample time to offer his comments when that Bill comes up for discussion in this House.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government will bring forward that important Bill in the next session of this Assembly in October?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I do not think the hon. Member is aware of the time-table of the next meeting of the Assembly in October. I do not think he would expect any discussion of this Bill at that meeting.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Sir, this Act is in force in Bombay. Have the Government examined the working of this Act in Bombay?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The experience of the Bombay Act is there before us.

Permits for importing medicinal preparations containing spirit.

* 271 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from Sri K. C. Gopalan Unni, M.L.A., in June 1956, regarding the issue of permits for importing spirituous medicinal preparations containing 80 to 90 per cent of alcohol into Palghat from Bangalore and Trichur;

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that permits for the import of Tincture Belladonna and Tincture Hyasiama have been given by the Revenue Board to one Sri A. S. Panikkar of Palghat, in May or June 1956;

(*d*) if so, whether Sri A. S. Panikkar holds any special licence under the Poisons Act of 1919; and

(*e*) if not, the circumstances under which the permit was issued to him?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) *to* (*e*) The entire matter is under the consideration of the Government.